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### STATE OF ALASKA Division of Elections Office of the Lieutenant Governor

## News Release for Immediate Release

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### District 7 Race Still Has One Vote Difference

After counting the 49 overseas absentee ballots, and after the State Ballot Review Board (SRB) has completed their review of election materials in House District 7, Mike Kelly is still ahead by one vote. The new unofficial election results have Mike Kelly with 5,018 votes to Karl Kassel's 5,017 votes.

As required by Alaska law, the SRB compares the number of signatures in each precinct register with the number of ballots cast as reported on the election results. In doing this comparison, the SRB found two precincts in district 7 where there was a discrepancy between the number of signatures appearing on the precinct register and the number of ballots cast appearing on the election results. Due to these discrepancies, the SRB recounted the ballots cast in the Farmers Loop and Goldstream #1 precincts.

The Farmers Loop precinct showed there were 1,290 ballots cast on the election results, but there were only 1,283 signatures in the precinct register. The SRB physically counted the ballots from this precinct and there were only 1,283 ballots. Likewise, in the Goldstream #1 precinct, there were 508 signatures in the precinct register but there were only 506 ballots cast on the election results. "Discrepancies with the number of signatures appearing on the precinct register and the number of ballots cast are caused by jammed ballots on Election Day. If a ballot becomes jammed in the optical scan, a message appears indicating if the ballot was counted or not counted. If the election board does not pay attention to the message, and does not rescan a ballot that was not counted, or rescans a ballot that was counted, there will be a discrepancy in the numbers" said Gail Fenumiai, Director. These discrepancies are caught and corrected by the SRB as required by law.

"Election results are not official until the review is completed by the SRB," said Fenumiai. After the SRB reviews all materials, the election is certified. The Division expects to certify the 2008 General election next week. After certification, a recount application can be filed within 5 days.